

**Remarks**

To place the application in better condition for appeal, the nonelected claims 31 and 36-40 are being canceled, and the remaining dependent claims 32-35 are being amended in accordance therewith.

The claims are submitted to be patentable for the reasons given in the last response. Continued examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is believed to be timely submitted. It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

18 Feb 2004  
Date

By: Stephen C. Jensen  
Stephen C. Jensen, Reg. No.: 35,207  
Telephone No.: (651) 736-3369

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833